

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DAN WEINBERG**, on April 20, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Dan Weinberg, Chairman (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Terry Murphy (R)
Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Excused: None.

Sen. Lynda Moss, Vice Chairman (D)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJ 48, 4/18/2007; HJ 47, 4/18/2007;
HJ 52, 4/18/2007;
Executive Action: HJ 48; HJ 47; HJ 52

00:00:01

HEARING ON HJ 48

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:18 **REP. GARY MACLAREN (R), HD 89**, opened the hearing on **HJ 48**, Study health insurance reform and publicly funded health care programs.

EXHIBIT (phs84a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:06 Pat Melby, Montana Medical Association
00:08:48 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce
00:09:53 Jackie Boyle, AARP Montana
00:10:36 Reverend Brady Vardemann
00:11:28 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
00:12:29 Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans
00:12:52 Don Allen, Montana Association of Insurers and Financial Advisors
00:13:45 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:14:28 Sen. O'Neil to Riley Johnson
00:15:18 Sen. O'Neil to Rep. MacLaren
00:16:52 Sen. Schmidt to Rep. MacLaren
00:17:34 Sen. Esp to Rep. MacLaren
00:18:19 Sen. Weinberg to Rep. MacLaren

Closing by Sponsor:

00:22:11 Rep. MacLaren

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 48

00:24:32 **Motion:** SEN. ESP moved that HJ 48 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

00:25:22 Sen. Esp

00:26:01 Sen. O'Neil

00:28:18 Sen. Weinberg to Sen. O'Neil

00:31:12 Sen. Esp

00:33:04 Sen. Weinberg to Pat Melby

00:34:05 Sen. O'Neil to Pat Melby

00:35:21 Sen. Murphy to Pat Melby

00:36:33 Sen. Esp

00:37:20 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-1.

Sen. Esp will carry the bill in the Senate.

HEARING ON HJ 47

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:39:13 **REP. JULIE FRENCH (D), HD 36,** opened the hearing on **HJ 47,** Study funding of Montana genetics program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:43:25 Mona Jamison, Shodair Children's Hospital

00:47:53 Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans

00:50:19 Tanya Ask, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana

00:51:30 Susan Witte, Allegiance Group of Companies

00:51:57 Don Allen, Montana Association of Insurers and
Financial Advisors

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

00:53:02 Rep. French

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 47

00:55:16 **Motion:** SEN. ESP moved that HJ 37 BE CONCURRED IN.

Discussion:

00:55:48 Sen. O'Neil

00:55:59 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-0. SEN. COBB AND SEN. SCHMIDT
voted aye by proxy

Sen. Murphy will carry the bill in the Senate.

HEARING ON HJ 52

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:56:46 REP. SUE DICKENSON (D), HD 25, opened the hearing on HJ
52, Study problem gambling.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:03:54 Brady Vardemann, Montana Association of Churches

01:04:47 Rich Miller, Executive Director, Gaming Industry
Association

01:08:00 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Coin Machine Operators

01:09:56 Pat Melby, Rimrock Foundation

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:12 Sen. Weinberg to Rep. Dickenson

01:19:50 Sen. O'Neil to Rep. Dickenson

Closing by Sponsor:

01:22:09 Rep. Dickenson

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 52

01:23:39 **Motion:** SEN. O'NEIL moved that HJ 52 BE CONCURRED IN.
Sen. O'Neil moved

Discussion:

01:23:48 Sen. O'Neil

01:24:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-0 by voice vote.

Sen. O'Neil will carry the bill in the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, Chairman

PRUDENCE GILDROY, Secretary

DW/pg

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([phs84aad.pdf](#))